

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 OMB-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /104 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:EOJONES

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MCANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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O 150015Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:N/A/

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 14

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 14,  
1976:

1. Q. THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR LAST NIGHT CANCELLED HIS  
TRIP TO JERUSALEM IN ORDER TO LAUNCH A NEGOTIATION HERE  
WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THE CONTROVERSY REGARDING THE  
OIL-DRILLING IN THE SUEZ -- THE GULF. COULD YOU REDEFINE  
YOUR POSITION REGARDING THAT ISSUE, PLEASE?

A. I CANNOT DEFINE IT BEYOND WHAT I SAID BEFORE -- NAMELY,  
THAT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON THIS SUBJECT  
WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN OUR TWO  
GOVERNMENTS -- AND, INDEED, THAT AN ISRAELI DELEGATION  
IS COMING HERE, WILL BEGIN TALKS WITH US ON THURSDAY, AND  
THEY WILL CONCERN QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN REGARDING  
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE AMERICAN OIL COMPANY, AMOCO, IN THE  
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GULF OF SUEZ.

NOW AS TO THE DETAILS OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS, I AM NOT IN  
A POSITION TO SET FORTH OUR POSITION ANY FURTHER OR TO  
REALLY DISCUSS THESE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. OBVIOUSLY,  
WE ARE MOVING INTO A SITUATION OF FURTHER DETAILED DIS-  
CUSSION; AND IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR ME TO OFFER ANY  
KIND OF COMMENT ON THAT AT THIS MOMENT.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE SHIFTED FROM JERUSALEM TO HERE? THEY WERE BEING CONDUCTED BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR DIRECTLY WITH MR. RABIN.

A. I AM NOT INFORMED AS TO WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ACTUALLY A SHIFT OF VENUE FOR THESE PARTICULAR NEGOTIATIONS. MY INFORMATION IS THAT THE ISRAELI DELEGATION COMING HERE WILL CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON. SO IN THAT SENSE WE HAVE BEEN HAVING DISCUSSIONS HERE -- AS I MENTIONED LAST WEEK -- AND I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS GOING ON IN JERUSALEM, FRANKLY.

Q. DO YOU KNOW BY NAME ANY MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI DELEGATION WHICH IS COMING HERE? WHO ARE THEY, I MEAN.

A. I HAVE ONE NAME -- THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION MR. EVRON. HE IS THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTRY. I DO NOT HAVE OTHER NAMES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE HIS FIRST NAME?

A. I DO NOT.

Q. EPHRAIM?

A. I AM SORRY?

Q. EPHRAIM.

A. EPHRAIM. O.K. HOW DO YOU SPELL THE FIRST NAME?

Q. E-P-H-R-A-I-M.

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A. O.K.; AND HIS LAST NAME IS SPELLED E-V-R-O-N.

Q. AND WHO ON THE AMERICAN SIDE WILL BE THE NEGOTIATORS?

A. HE WILL MEET WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON. I SUSPECT THERE WILL BE OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED, BUT THOSE ARE THE TWO PRINCIPALS.

Q. NOW, HOW MANY ARE IN THE DELEGATION COMING OVER?

A. I AM AFRAID I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

A. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THE DELEGATION. I REALLY DO NOT KNOW, HENRY.

Q. AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT'S ONLY MR. EVRON.

Q. MAYBE A NAVAL OFFICER, I THINK.

Q. IS HE SEPHARDIC?

Q. NO. (LAUGHTER.)

2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN PRIOR TO THE ABOVE BRIEFING:

Q. IS IT TRUE, AS THE ISRAELI PRESS REPORTS, THAT THERE WILL BE TALKS BETWEEN AN ISRAELI DELEGATION AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING ISRAELI CLAIMS AGAINST AMOCO DRILLING AND EXPLORATION OPERATIONS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ?

A. AN ISRAELI GOVERNMENT DELEGATION WILL BEGIN TALKS WITH US ON THURSDAY. TALKS WILL CONCERN THE QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN RE THE ACTIVITIES OF AN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY IN THE GULF OF SUEZ.

Q. IS IT ALSO TRUE THAT AMOCO HAS STOPPED ITS OPERATIONS  
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IN THE GULF OF SUEZ PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THESE TALKS?

A. WE ARE DISCUSSING THE AMOCO POSITION TODAY WITH OFFICIALS OF THE COMPANY. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE THE FACTUAL AND LEGAL CONTEXTS OF THE RECENT INCIDENTS IN THE GULF OF SUEZ ARE NOT CLEAR AND THE TALKS OF THURSDAY WITH THE ISRAELI DELEGATION WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE BEEN HAVING FOR SEVERAL DAYS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT. THAT IS ALL I HAVE TO SAY NOW.

Q. AT WHAT LEVEL WILL THE TALKS WITH THE ISRAELI TEAM BE HELD?

A. THE ISRAELIS ARE SENDING MR. EVRON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE WILL MEET WITH

MR. HABIB AND MR. ATHERTON.

Q. ALLON IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD ISRAELI TV THAT THE TALKS WILL NOT HAVE THE BASIC ISSUE OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO CONTROL THE EASTERN PART OF THE GULF OF SUEZ ON THE AGENDA AND THAT IF THE TALKS AVOID THE LEGAL ISSUES AND FOCUS ON

PRACTICAL MATTERS, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE OF AGREEMENT.  
DOES THE U.S. SIDE AGREE WITH THIS?

A. WE SEE NO POINT IN GOING INTO THE AGENDA OR OUR  
APPROACH TO THE DISCUSSIONS, BUT WE SHARE MR. ALLON'S HOPE  
THAT AN AGREEMENT WILL BE WORKED OUT.

ROBINSON

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